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### Holiday Shopping Tips

As we approach the start of the Christmas shopping season the Utah Division of Consumer Protection would like to provide Utah shoppers with just a few tips to make their trip to the mall or trip on the information superhighway a pleasant one.

1. **Make a budget and do some comparison shopping** - Get the best deal for your money.
2. **Shop early** – Last minute shoppers are more susceptible to high-pressure sales tactics and impulse buying.
3. **Check Refund and Exchange Policies** – Be sure to hang on to your receipts in case they are needed.
4. **Use a credit card** – It's safer than carrying cash and offers consumer protection.

If you think the crowds at the malls are just too much to handle and want to do your holiday shopping over the Internet. Here are a few key things to keep in mind.

1. **Use a secure browser** – Look for an unbroken key or padlock at the bottom of your browser to ensure your transmission is protected.
2. **Shop with companies you know** – Check out the refund and return policies. If it is a new vendor, request a catalog or brochure to get a better idea on the merchandise you are ordering.
3. **Protect your Privacy** – Be wary if asked to supply personal information such as social security number for the transaction. It's rarely necessary and should raise a red flag.
4. **Pay close attention when entering order** – Make certain the numbers being entered are correct. Also, check the shipping charges and shipping time.

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**5. Print out a copy of your order** – Just in case there is a problem with the vendor later on.

When making charitable contributions this holiday season be sure they are registered with the Utah Division of Consumer Protection and you're comfortable with the percentage they are using for the charitable purposes. You can contact the Utah Division of Consumer Protection at 801-530-6601 or 1-800-721-SAFE. You may also contact them on-line at [www.commerce.utah.gov/dcp](http://www.commerce.utah.gov/dcp).